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inducement you have to write. While you are writing, you feel your superiority to her; and when she replies, you are still more fully convinced of it.

Miss Ardent. I confess it, but I assure you that the pleasure we obtain from the admiration of persons of inferior intellect, is very transient.

Mr. V— It must be so, when the praises of the good and judicious are not sufficient to produce durable satisfaction. Nothing will have this effect but the consciousness of having daily and hourly filled our allotted duties. The praises of men are but breath which intoxicates and passes away; neither can any human being judge of our motives for doing the best actions.

Miss Ardent. I will not make a display of my talents by writing to Miss Flimsy, but I must do something; I cannot be idle.

Mr. V— I would by no means have you idle; but I would have you rather to sit still, or to take a solitary walk, than to endeavour to make a display of your genius. As a sovereign remedy for the listlessness, the discontent, and the restlessness which alternately are the diseases of youth (particularly those who have a little more talents or animation than usual) I prescribe for you some settled occupation, to which you *may* at any time have recourse, and to which you *must* pay very frequent attention; this will prove an object whereon you may employ all your faculties; it will not chill or wither the blooming ardour of youth; your best sentiments may still be awake, and a solidity and permanence render all your thoughts and feelings more valuable, and in reality more beautiful.

Miss Ardent. I shall certainly be guided by your advice. Circumstances you know have occurred which have put it in my power to do with *myself* as I pleased, and though my liberty and leisure have been often envied, yet they have been a torment to myself, and kept me in a perpetual chase after unreal pleasures. Your life and actions have been such as to give you authority to advise all trifflers like me.

Mr. V— I can so far speak from experience that I have never known happiness except where my conscience told me I was useful.

A.

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

## A DIALOGUE ON A BOARDING-SCHOOL EDUCATION.

MRS. D. Maria is now fourteen, and I think it is high time to finish her education. What boarding school do you prefer?

Mrs E. Indeed I am a very inadequate judge of boarding-schools, as I am not partial to any of them, nor indeed to that mode of either beginning or finishing education. I would advise you to keep Maria at home.

Mrs. D. I don't think that girls ever get that polish at home, which governesses used to the business of education can give them, except indeed they have one equally accomplished at home, which I could not afford; and even in that case they cannot see so much of fashionable life as at school.

Mrs. E. Perhaps not so much artificial life, which I think is quite an advantage to them.

Mrs. D. Would you not have your daughter taught any of those accomplishments which embellish her natural endowments, and may prove a means of advancing her in life?

Mrs. E. Any artificial accomplishment which I could not teach her myself, nor afford to pay a person to come to the house to teach

her, I would rather she was without. It is more than probable that such embellishments might prove a means of making her disgusted with the situation most consistent with her station and consequently most conducive to her happiness. Nor do I consider that such an education would unfit a woman for mixing in the highest ranks of society, if such be her destination. She has every opportunity of storing her mind with useful and even elegant knowledge, which fits her to converse in any company; but she cannot be at balls, &c. or at least she cannot take an active part in them. As to the little ceremonies which are almost necessary in high life, they are easily acquired, and an unaffected person need never feel aukward at being ignorant of them.

Mrs. D. I must have my daughter taught to dance; a girl who does not know how to dance, can never walk either with ease or elegance.

Mrs. E She may not know how to frisk and curtsey before a large company with grace, but in the careless plays of children, I have often admired their graceful movements. Some would say a boarding-school regimen of back boards, and steel collars was necessary to render the human figure erect; but I am persuaded that children generally stoop and twist by the art which is used by mothers and nurses to keep them straight; they are so trammelled and tightened that they endeavour to twist from one side to the other to get relief from the pressure of their harness. We don't often see boys stoop or be crooked, and the country girls are almost always straight, because their clothes are loose, and the motions necessary for labour or for active amusement must be free.

Mrs. D. Independently of dancing, Maria must be taught drawing, and various other accomplishments, which are best procured at school. I do not think myself capable of giving her even a common education. I could not afford to let her stay more than a year at school; therefore, I put off sending her till this time, that she is of an age to benefit more from it, than when she was a mere child.

Mrs. E. I beg leave to differ from you on that point, for I think a mother's eye is now more necessary than ever, and the slight, paltry system of boarding-school education is likely to be more hurtful than ever. Maria will probably return to you disgusted with every plain thing she sees, and she is now of an age to acquire knowledge for the sake of itself, not merely because she *must* do so. If any thing useful can be made of girls' boarding-schools, I think it is only to send young children to, because they are more likely to learn any thing by applying themselves at regular times than in the irregular manner they are often taught at home. I cannot think that there is any woman of common sense who is incapable of teaching her daughter all that is necessary to be known. Of all the animal creation, why should our species alone be incapable of rearing their young, or why should we alone be deformed by the excess of art?

Mrs. D Will you allow that many women have not leisure to educate their children?

Mrs. E. There may be instances of human concerns being so perverted from their proper course, that a woman finds it impossible to attend to her first duty; but such instances are not so numerous as is imagined If every person not only expended money according to their income, but time, they would generally find leisure to do their duty. A

woman of small fortune must give entertainments, she cannot afford to pay people to make preparations; therefore while she is employed in such occupations, her children run into mischief, if they are not either sent to nurse, or to school: this woman must also return visits, which practice is as bad or worse for her family. Another woman devotes her time to the fine arts, or to literary pursuits, while her children are in the same danger. We generally see that unnecessary occupations consume more time than positive business; a great deal of which can be done in the midst of tractable children, and girls soon learn to assist their mother.

Mrs D. I am so perplexed with the charge of one child, that I often wonder how people do who have a great many children.

Mrs E. It is a vulgar saying, "the hen that can scratch for one, can scratch for ten;" and it is generally observed that many children are as easily managed as one, and in some cases, perhaps, more so; this is one plea used in favour of boarding-schools, because more system is established in them for the necessary well government of the family.

L.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

### MEMOIR OF THE REV. GEORGE WALKER.

*Continued from p. 363, No. XXVIII.*

IN 1780, Mr. Burke brought forward his celebrated motion for a reform in the public expenditure. As a prelude to this, petitions had been presented from Yorkshire and other counties in support of this measure. Mr. Walker on this occasion exerted himself with considerable effect in procuring one from the county of Nottingham He drew up the petition, and concluded his speech on the occasion, in the following energetic words:

"Go on then, ye people of England, in the course in which ye have set out, and turn not to the right, or to the left, for all the shadowy phantoms, which those who wish you no speed may dress up to beguile or awe you. As from you originated the good work, on your constancy and firmness entirely depends the bringing it to a happy issue, the obtaining all your wishes. Every art, every sophistry, every false alarm, and hypocritical jealousy will be tried to disunite, to unman you; but if you suffer yourselves to be overreached, to be intimidated, you have made your last attempt for your country, for youselves, and for your children; and you will fall below the level of other slaves; the character of Englishmen, the very character of men will not be left you. But I look for better things, I see no room for fear, for any thing but the most reviving, animating hope. The line of the people's sufferance is past, and ministerial rapacity and oppression shrink before you. For as there is no power which ought, so there is no power which can withstand you, if you be not wanting to yourselves. See! the tide is turned, the ebb of Britain is over; and fair integrity: and generous, unbought patriotism; and decent, manly liberty; and all your truest glory are revisiting this favoured island. Welcome them, seize them, hold them; and may that being, who is propitious to honest and good designs, bless the British people with all success!"